

ARTICLES

OF

ENQUIRY

CONCERNING

MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL

Within the Arch-deaconry of

Middlesex:

Given in charge to the CHURCH-WARDENS,
and Sworn men in every PARISH:

BY THE REVEREND

T H O. C O O K E,

ARCH-DEACON OF MIDDLESEX

Anno Dom. 1674.

L O N D O N,

Printed for Henry Brome. 1676.

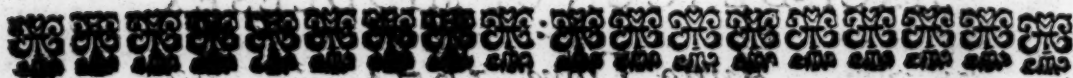
ARTICLES



CONCERNING

*The Tenor of the Oath to be tendered to the
Church-Wardens and Side-men.*

You shall swear diligently to Enquire, and
true Presentment make, of all Defaults and
Offences, as are Inquirable by the Laws
Ecclesiastical of this Realm, and become known
unto you. *So God you help.*



LONDON

Printed for Henry Brome. 1646.



ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY

Within the ARCHDEACONRY of

Middlesex.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches or Chappels, with the Ornaments, Furniture, and Possessions belonging to them.

- I. **I**S the Fabrick of your Church (or Chappel) with all things appertaining to it, kept in good repair within and without, in such order and decency, as becometh the House dedicated to the publick Worship of God?
- II. IS there in the Church (or Chappel) a Font of Stone standing in the usual antient Place, with a Cover to it, for the Administration of Baptisme? Is there also a convenient Communion Table covered with a fair Carpet of Silk, or other decent Stuff, in time of Divine Service; and with a fair linnen Cloath at the time of Administring the Sacrament? What Cup, Chalice, Paten, or Flagons have you belonging to that Service?

III. HAVE you in your Church (or Chappel) a convenient Seat for the Minister to read Divine Service in? And a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cushion for the same? Have any Pews or Seats been erected by any private Person of his own Authority without leave from the Ordinary?

IV. HAVE you a large Folio Bible of the last Translation, with two Books of Common Prayer well bound, one for the Minister, the other for the Clerk? Have you the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, the Book of Canons, and the Table of Degrees allowed and prohibited in Marriage?

V. HAVE you a Register-Book of Parchment for all who are Christened, Married, and Buried in the Parish? Doth your Minister every Sunday in the Presence of your Church-wardens set down the names of the parties, with the Day, Month, and Year of each Christening, Marriage, and Burial?

VI. HAVE you a Paper-Book in which the names of Strangers who Preach or Officiate in the Church (or Chappel) are set down, and another Book for the Church-wardens Accounts?

VII. HAVE you a fair Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his publick Ministration, provided at the charge of the Parish.

VIII. HAVE you a Chest for Alms, with three Locks and Keys, and another Chest to keep the Books and Ornaments of the Church? Have you a Bier with a black Horse-cloth for the Burial of the Dead?

IX. IS the Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Pales, or Rails, and decently kept from all Annoyance or Incroachments? Are the Trees therein preserved?

X. IS the Mansion House of your Minister, with all other Houses thereunto belonging, kept in good repair? Have any of them been pulled down, or defaced? Have any incroached upon the Land thereunto belonging, or felled the Trees thereon growing?

XI. HAVE you a perfect Terrier of all Glebe-Lands, Wardens, Orchards, and Tenements belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage?

T I T. II.

Concerning Ministers.

I. **I**S your Minister defamed or suspected to have obtained his Orders or Benefice by any Simoniackal Compact?

II. **DOTH** your Minister diligently read Divine Service, and Preach every Lords-day in the Church unless hindred by sickness or reasonable absence? And in such cases doth he procure some lawful Minister to read Prayers, to Preach, and perform other Ministerial duties?

III. **DOTH** your Minister in the Morning and Evening Service, in the Administration of the Sacraments, and in performing other Religious Offices appointed by the Church of England, use the respective Forms in the Book of Common Prayer, together with all those Rites and Ceremonies which are enjoined in this Church? And doth he make use of the Surplice when he reads Divine Service, or Administers the Sacraments?

IV. **DOTH** your Minister diligently Catechize the Youth of his Parish every Sunday and Holyday? Doth he prepare and procure them (as occasion is offered) to come and to be confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and all Sectaries in your Parish, to the true Religion and Worship of God?

V. **I**S your Minister a Man of a sober, unblameable and exemplary life? Is he grave, modest, and regular in his outward demeanour and apparel, according to the Constitutions of the Church? Or is his carriage, conversation, or company in any kind whatsoever, disorderly, or scandalous, and unbeseeming his Calling and Charge?

VI. **I**S your Minister ready to visit the Sick, & to baptize Infants in danger of death, being so desired? Is any Infant or more aged Person in the Parish yet unbaptized by his default? Have those Children which have been baptized in private houses by the Minister of the Parish, afterward been brought into the Church? And did the Minister there certify the Congregation, that the true Form of Baptism was by him privately before used? Or if any Children in the Parish have been baptized
pre,

privately by any other lawful Minister, have those Children been brought to your Church: And hath the Minister of the Parish there examined, whether such Children were lawfully Baptized, or not: Doth your Minister refuse to give the Sacrament to any in the Parish, or for what cause: Or doth he give it to such as are scandalous, or notorious sinners, or to any Excommunicate persons: Doth he duly Administer the Blessed Sacrament three times every year at the least, whereof Easter to be one?

VII. DOTH your Minister Marry any persons in private houses, or such as are under age, not having the consent of their Parents and Guardians: Doth he Marry any either without Banns first published three Sonndays or Holydays in the Church: Or without Licence so to do: Or with the Licence of any other than the Archbishop, Bishop of this Diocess, or his Chancellor?

VIII. DOTH your Minister duly bid and observe Holydays and Fasting days, as is appointed: and doth he then use the Forms of Prayer prescribed by the Church: Hath he taken upon him to appoint any private Fasts, or Religious Exercises without lawful Authority: Doth he or any other (Minister or Lay-person) in your Parish, hold any Conventicles, or Meetings under pretence of any exercise of Religion?

IX. Is your Minister constantly Resident among you; and how many weeks in the year hath he been absent from his Benefice: Hath he a Curate to assist him in his absence or presence: Doth he carry himself in all things, as an able and discreet Minister, and conformable to the Church of England: Doth he serve any more Cures beside that of your Parish, and at what distance: What is the name of your Curate: And doth any Lay-man, not being in Holy Orders, presume to read Publick Prayers in the Church:

X. Is there in your Parish any Lecturer: What is his name: Doth he read Divine Service before his Lecture: and is he conformable to the Discipline of the Church of England?

XI. DOTH your Minister every six Months publicly denounce all such as persevere in the Sentence of Excommunication, not seeking to be absolved: Hath any Excommunicate Person been received into the Church without a Certificate from the Ordinary of their Absolution: or any so dying, buried with Christian Burial?

in your Parish? Do they, or any of them keep any Schoolmaster in their House, which cometh not to Church to hear Divine Service, and receive the Holy Communion?

V. ARE there any in your Parish, who refuse to have their Infant-Children Baptized by your Minister; or do they keep them unbaptized longer than the Church allows? And what Infants, or more aged persons, are there in your Parish unbaptized?

VI. DO all your householders duly send their Children, Apprentices, and Servants to be Catechized? And do they take care (when occasion is offered) they should be confirmed by the Bishop?

VII. IS there any person in your Parish so confirmed and instructed, and being Sixteen years of age, who refuseth to receive the Blessed Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times every year, whereof Easter to be one? And do all receive this sacred Mystery with that outward gesture of Humility and Reverence as becomes them, meekly kneeling upon their knees according to the order and Custom of the Church?

VIII. ARE there any in your Parish who are known or suspected to be unlawfully Married, contrary to the Laws of God and this Church? Are there any, who being lawfully Married (and never divorced) do yet live asunder? Or any, who being lawfully Divorced, do live together again? Or being separated for Adultery, have afterwards Entermarried with any other, during the life of their first Consort?

IX. ARE there any Married Women in your Parish, who after their safe Delivery from Childbirth, refuse to make their humble and Publick thanksgivings to God, according to the appointment of the Church?

X. ARE there any of your Parish who refuse to pay their Easter Offerings, and other Duties to your Minister? Or to pay the Rates assessed on them, for the Repair and Provisions of the Church?

XI. DO you know, or have you heard of any Patron or other person in your Parish, who having the gift of an Ecclesiastical Benefice hath made gain thereby upon any bargain, either for Money, Pension, Lease, Reserve of Tithes, or Glebe, or other Simoniacal Compact whatsoever?

XII. DO any among you refuse to Bury their Dead, according to the Rites of the Church of England? Do you know of any

any Legacies given to your Church, or the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London, or to the poor, or to other charitable uses, not yet received by you, or detained from you, or not applied to the charitable uses appointed?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Officers belonging to the Church.

I. **A**RE the Church-Wardens of your Parish, yearly chosen according to Law: And are there Sidemen appointed to assist them, for the due ordering of the Church?

II. **HAVE** the former and last Church-Wardens given up their accounts to those that succeed them, together with all moneys and other things belonging to your Church or Chapel?

III. **HAVE** you a Parish Clerk, aged twenty years at least, who is of sober life and good report? Is he chosen by your Minister, and approved by the Parish; and is he able for Reading, Writing, and Singing, as a Clerk? Are his wages duly paid him?

IV. **DO**TH he or your Sexton take care of your Church, to keep it lockt and clean, to open the doors, and ring the Bells in due time, to call the Inhabitants to the Worship of God; also to admonish them by Tolling of a passing Bell for any that are dying; thereby to meditate of their own death, and to commend the others weak condition to the mercy of God?

TIT. V.

*Concerning Alms-houses, Schools, and School-masters,
Physitians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.*

IS there any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-School, founded in your Parish? Are they so governed and ordered in the use and revenue as the Founders appointed, according to the Ordinances and Statutes which have been made concerning the same?

II. DO TH any man keep a Publick or Private School in your Parish? Is he or they licenced and allowed thereto by the Bishop or his Chancellor? Doth he instruct his Scholars in the Catechism and Religion of the Church of England? Is there any Woman that taketh upon her to instruct and educate any young Maidens; doth she resort duly, and bring with her to Divine Service, upon the Lords Day and Holidays, all such young Maidens as are committed to her care?

III. DO any in your Parish practise Physick, Chirurgery, or Midwifery, without Licence from the Ordinary?

TIT. VI.

Touching Ecclesiastical Officers.

ARE there any Ecclesiastical Officers that exercise Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction within this Diocese, that take and receive any extraordinary Fees for any Cause? Have abuses or offences been presented by Church-Wardens and Quest-men? And are such offences, being presented, suppressed or left unpunished?

II. HAVE any Apparitors taken any reward for the concealing of any Offence, or the avoiding of the punishment of the Offenders? and do they summon any without a Citation first had?

IF you know of any other Default or Crime of Ecclesiastical Cognizance, you are to present the same. *Lib.*

TH E Minister of every Parish may joyn in
Presentments with the Church-wardens
and Side-men, and if they will not present, then the
Ministers themselves (being the persons that have
the chief care of the suppressing of Sin and Impiety
in their Parishes) may Present the Crimes afore-
said, and such things as shall want due Refor-
mation, Can. 113.

THO. COOKE. Arch-deacon.

THE Minister of every Parish may join in
Presentments with the Churchwardens
and Side-men, and if they will not present then the
Minister shall be liable as being the person that hath
the charge of the suppressing of Sin and Impiety
in their Parish: and I refer the Crimes afore-
said, and such things as shall come due Refor-
mation, Care &c.

THO. COOKE, Arch-deacon.